

For Immediate Release

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HERSETH SANDLIN ANNOUNCES USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS FOR THREE SOUTH DAKOTA TRIBES

Washington, DC (September 23, 2010)- Today, U.S. Representative Stephanie Herseth Sandlin announced the award of three grants by the USDA Rural Development program. Two grants are broadband funding grants, made possible through the Recovery Act, to help communities work together on a regional basis to develop strategic plans to attract broadband investment and best use their broadband capability for sustainable economic development. A third grant is being awarded through the Rural Business Opportunity Grants program.

The Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate will receive a \$165,000 broadband grant and the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe will receive a \$195,750 broadband grant. Both grants are being made through the Broadband Initiatives Program which provides technical assistance to deploy broadband internet service to underserved rural areas.

The Harvest Initiative, working with the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, will receive \$50,000 from the Rural Business Opportunity Grants program. The Rural Business Opportunity Grants program helps to improve economic conditions in rural areas.

“These telecommunications and business opportunity grants will provide needed support for economic development for the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, Crow Creek Sioux, and Lower Brule Sioux Tribes. I’m hopeful that this grant funding will help build out critical infrastructure and attract additional investment and capital to these reservation communities, creating jobs and

fostering long-term economic development,” said Herseth Sandlin.

The projects are part of USDA’s regional initiative will focus on strategic planning activities to improve economic conditions in rural areas, particularly in underserved communities. The initiative will help communities to connect and cluster their economies geographically based on their self-identified strengths, so they are able to increase productivity and build more robust, sustainable economies.

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